Answering of interpellations in the Legislative Council.

299. **MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state the order in which questions are answered in the Legislative Council?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is no particular order in which questions are answered. All the answers ready for any meeting of the Council are furnished to the Council at that meeting, a certain number of answers being set apart for each day of the meeting.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): It is stated in the answer that there is no particular order in which questions are answered. Does the member consider it a proper answer to my question?

MR. P. VISAVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The subsequent sentences in the answer make the idea clear.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Are the questions being answered in a haphazard manner?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No. Questions are answered as their answers get ready and get passed by the President.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Questions sent up by some members are not answered at all in any session. Will the member be pleased to arrange the questions in the order in which they are received by him?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is no use in merely arranging the *questions*. It is the *answers* that the members want. Some answers are readily obtained, while others take time. And, questions are arranged in the order in which their answers get ready. We are trying our best to answer as many questions as possible. The member will see that a hundred and one questions have been answered this day alone.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): My complaint is, that, while *all* the questions sent up by some members are answered, *none* of the questions sent up by some other members is answered.

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government do not make any such distinction.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Will it not be possible to answer at least some of the questions sent by each member of this Council?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): As I have already stated, that is not how the question must be viewed. We answer questions in the order in which their answers are got ready.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Where is the difficulty in making it a rule that at least a few questions of each member must be answered in each meeting of the Council?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is a good deal of practical difficulty in doing that. It is almost impossible to do it. If the member will kindly come to my office, I shall try to explain it to him.

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